

TO: V. J. St. Pierre, Jr., Parish President

FROM: Tommy Scott III, Director of Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

SUBJECT: 2012 Annual Report

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) focuses its efforts on aligning the many facets of its workforce system to focus on improving the lives of the citizens by supporting our businesses and strengthening our economically diverse communities.

In 2012, WIA's partnerships have established strategies to bridge the gap between job opportunities and the pool of qualified workers. Many employers are having a hard time attracting qualified workers. A skills deficit has become apparent, exacerbated by deficiencies in adult literacy. Workers with few or no skills either are trapped in jobs leading nowhere or continue to experience difficulties in securing employment leading to self-sufficiency. WIA offers Job readiness workshops that highlight the basic skills necessary in order to obtain gainful employment in today's highly competitive job market. Therefore, our main goal is to address workforce issues and shared goals. We aim to minimize redundancies and gather more resources and make them readily available to the residents of our region. WIA works very closely with the St. Charles Parish Economic Development and Community Services departments, as well as the United Way in order to ensure public awareness of the opportunities and services available within our parish.

WIA relies heavily upon Federal grants as well as State and Local funding streams to allow us to provide all services to the public at no cost. Our major financial contributions allotted in 2012 consisted of Federal grants awarded to our area because of natural disasters inclusive of

the BP oil spill, Hurricane Katrina, and Hurricane Isaac. We utilize these funding streams to place individuals into training programs to refine their skills sets and ultimately produce viable candidates with realistic chances of allocating employment opportunities. The grant awarded to us because of damage caused by Hurricane Issac actually allows us to provide temporary jobs to the residents of our parishes to assist with the restoration and beautification of our communities. All of the grants are Federal programs and must be used in accordance with specific guidelines and eligibility requirements.

We have seen a tremendous spike in the amount of traffic that our centers have experienced in 2012 compared to previous years, yet we have done an outstanding job in maintaining the quality of services provided. In 2012, we served a total of 34,523 individuals.

Others services delivered in 2012 are as follows:

Members enrolled:	3,356
Members obtaining employment:	203
Services to employers:	745
UI claimants registered in centers:	4,728
Internal recruitments:	253

WIA also strived in 2012 to assist employers within our region by providing tax credits supported by the State, accompanied by customized recruiting events and training programs to provide a sufficiently skilled applicant pool. Despite periodic budget cuts, our staff continues to work diligently to stay aware of, and take full advantage of perpetually changing market trends. We will continue to collaborate between various local and state agencies, school systems, and employers in an effort to develop and implement a demand driven system that ties Workforce development to business and industry needs. Through these projects and others, WIA will improve the continuum of education and training opportunities in the region.